

Government of Madras

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1683, 16th November 1923

Fisheries—Tanks—South Kanara district—Improvement—Mr. U. Rama Rao's criticisms,
replied to.

Government of Madras

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G.O. No. 1683, 16th November 1923.

Fisheries—Tanks—South Kanara district—Improvement—Mr. U. Rama Rao's criticisms replied to.

Order—No. 1683, Development, dated 16th November 1923.

The attention of the Government in the Ministry of Development has been drawn to an article by Mr. U. Rama Rao on 'Tippu Sultan's Fish Ponds in South Kanara' which was published in the *Daily Express* of the 4th October 1923 and in which it is stated that several thousand rupees have been wasted on the tanks.

2. (The Government have investigated the statement and find that there is no foundation for it. The facts are that) the tanks (which are situated in the Coondapoor taluk of the South Kanara district) were brought under the control of the Fisheries Department (in 1917) for purposes of conserving the milk fish 'chanos,' a valuable species of edible fish. Though this fish is occasionally caught both in the east and the west coast waters, it is only in these tanks that it occurs in abundance. Since Sir Frederick Nicholson severed his connexion with the Fisheries Department, the occasional inspections by the officers of the department have been undertaken only at the special request of the Collector of the district and the supervision of the tanks is entirely in the hands of the local revenue officers. In December 1922 the Assistant Director (Inland) visited them in order to arrange for the repair of the sluices which had long been neglected. On the completion of the work, an Assistant Inspector of the department was deputed in order to see that it had been properly done, to checkmeasure it and to make payment to the contractor. The Director of Fisheries himself visited the tanks in May 1923 as he happened to be in the neighbourhood in connexion with the selection of a site for a new fish-curing yard at Udipi. No proposal to convey the fish to distant places by rail or cart has been put forward. The present operations are merely directed towards the conservation of the fish from extinction. If and when the inland waters of the South Kanara district are taken up for organization and improvement, the ponds in question will serve as a fish-farm for the supply of fry; but this is not feasible in the immediate future. The total capital expenditure on the tanks since they were taken over by the department has amounted to Rs. 620.

(By order of the Government, Ministry of Development)

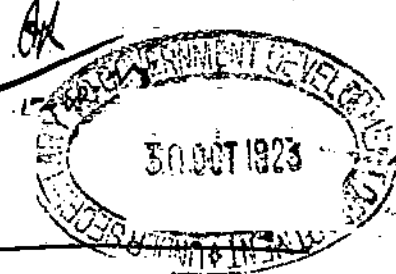
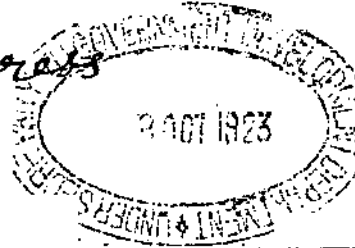
F. NOYCE,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Fisheries.
Editors' Table.

1923
DEPARTMENT

CUTTINGS FROM NEWSPAPERS.

1. Name of Paper—*The Daily Express*
2. Published at—*Madras*
3. Dated—*4-10-23*



Tippu Sultan's Fish Ponds in South Kanara

Dr. U. Rama Rao writes:—

It is with mixed feelings of pain and relief I hear the rumour that the Fisheries Department is going to be abolished. It is very painful, considering the fact that the Department was created for the purpose of improving the fishing industry and thereby increasing the food supply of the vast majority of our poor people and also helping the poor fisher-folk to earn better income from their toilsome industry. It was with these objects in view, Sir Frederick Nicholson, one of the greatest and most philanthropic Civilian Officers, who has ever set foot in India, organised this Department, and during the tenure of his office as head of the Department, he was able to benefit the poor people by his unstinted devotion and untiring labour. Hence it is painful to hear that the noble work which he initiated is to have an untimely end.

Nevertheless, it is a great relief the Department is to be closed, because ever since Sir Frederick left and especially during the last few years, the usefulness of the Department has not been at all proportionate to the heavy expenses incurred. Speaking of my poor district of South Kanara, I may give one instance of the lavish way money has been spent by this Department. There are 2 small tanks or rather ponds near the backwater in Oondapoor in which Tippu Sultan is said to have bred some kinds of fish for his own use. After his time, these ponds came into the possession of our Government. The villagers who live in the neighbourhood being law-abiding, did not catch fish from these tanks, which used to be under the control of the local Revenue Officers. Some years ago these were transferred to the Fisheries Department and almost every six months or oftener the Director, Piscicultural Exports, Sub-Assistant and Inspectors of the Fisheries Department have been coming here all the way from Madras to inspect these tanks, incurring many thousands of rupees in the way of travelling expenses. It seems there is now an idea of transporting to distant places live fish taken from these tanks, if so, such fish would have to be carted over a distance of about sixty miles before they reach the nearest railway station and during this road journey seven forries have to be crossed. One could easily imagine the enormous cost the proposed transport would involve. With due deference to the opinions of the experts of the Fisheries Department any lay man will tell us that similar fish are available in other parts of the West Coast and in places much nearer to railway. Hence the only conceivable reason for selecting these tanks for this purpose, is perhaps, to enable officers to travel long distances at public expense. I have, as a member of the Legislative Council, moved Government to open some fish curing yards in South Kanara District, where the existing yards are few in number and far apart, e.g. Udipi and Oondapoor Taluqs have only four or five yards over a coast extending over

a seventy miles. Owing to the paucity of fish curing yards the fisher-folk living far from existing yards get very low prices for their fish for want of facilities to obtain cheap salt for curing. By spending a few thousands of rupees Government could have easily established some additional fish curing yards, but they did not do so. On the other hand several thousands of rupees have been wasted in the name of Tippu's tanks.

Development not

To A.S.

Submitted for perusal.

File
8/10/23

The what A above is absurd. But we must respect papers in which we mention a small amount of money for the repair of these tanks & the correspondence with the Board about the same. The work

To A.S.

G.O. No 52 dt 7-1-23 to Lodge

No 1765 dt 23 dt 23-8-23 and Connected papers are put up.

File
8/10/23

we are sorry about

Please put them up

File
13-10-23

20 AS

Please see notes at pp 8-9 of

(N) Govt 789 of 13.6.22.

File
13-6-23

Submitted for perusal

S/ File
16.10.23Can be put in a side tank which is
already in use in Tithi Tank.Y
16.10.23

Dho

D. no 2604 of 23-1
16-6-23Revenue No. 13319/22-
19.10.23

Fisheries Department.

The inspections of tanks since Sir P. A.

Nicholson's days have been very sporadic. They were not done except at the request of the Collector of South Kanara. To this day all supervision etc, is delegated to the Tahsildars and local Revenue Officers. The only expenditure Mr. U. Rama Rao apparently refers to is that incurred on account of the visits made by the Assistant Director of Fisheries (Inland) in December 1922 and the Director in May 1923. The visit of the former officer was necessary to arrange for the construction of the sluices in disrepair and even after this was arranged considerable difficulty had been experienced in getting the Public Works Department and the Revenue subordinate officers to see to the completion of the work and an Assistant Inspector of the Inland Piscicultural Section had to go and check-measure the works. As regards the visit of the Director the visit to these tanks was only incidental. He happened to be at Udipi in connection with the selection of site etc,

D 2737 II

38/07/23

K. mentioned in Govt 52
9-1-23
p 69 (2)

bazar p 2 of (9)

for a newly proposed Fish curing yard and visited Coondapur as he was so close to the place.

As regards capital expenditure so far a sum of Rs545/- has been paid for the construction of the sluices and a sum of Rs75/- is yet to be paid. It will be seen that Mr. U. Rama Rao's remarks are a gross exaggeration of facts. The importance of the fishery, however, cannot be under-rated. Though the milk-fish "Chanos" is occasionally caught in back-waters both in the east and west coasts of the Presidency, this is the only locality in the whole presidency where this fish occurs in abundance and has been known to occur for a long time. The fish is one of the most highly esteemed marine food fish and the fishery is potentially of ^{great} ~~quite~~ importance as it can be developed considerably and valuable. There is a very extensive fishery in Java where "Chanos" is cultivated in such sea side ponds and marketed. There is no proposal to convey this fish from Coondapur to distant places by rail or cart. The steps so far taken is to conserve the fishery against extinction. Only when the Inland waters of the South Kanara District are taken up for organisation and improvement will the ponds in question serve as a farm for the supply of fry; but this is not feasible in the immediate future.

B. Sundara Rao
Ag. Director of Fisheries.

To
The Secretary to Government,
Development Department. U/

U.O.No.1331-I/22-14
20-10-23.

S.R.29/10.

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29/10.

Dev. 28th

S/ Swommes

CU

11-23

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people in the field. D- Rine mos. several thousands
Vafes have decided about 10th, 12th!

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h₂

circ. 3/11
Rto 3/11

Please do so

Vafes

3.11.73

Please do so

h₂

8113

To A.S

A draft order is submitted for

approval.

AND
6-11-23

S/ CU

12-11-23

Please do so

h₂
12113

To A.S

Resubmitted after typing the draft.

AND
15-11-23

S/ CU

15-11-23

Done

h₂

15113

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under the control of the Fisheries Dept.

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p2nt

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DESPATCHED
M 1
29 NOV 1923

p3nt

To the Dir. of
" Editor's

7.
15/11/23